

It was 1914, the first year of World War I. The war reached an impasse by winter. The soldiers on both sides were tired of the deaths and destruction they claimed many lives. They had signed up for the army thinking that the war would be over soon, but it was clear that it was not going to happen. So, the soldiers dug trenches on both sides of the no man's land, and continued shooting at each other. On Christmas Eve, something

strange and wonderful happened at various places along the war-front in Europe. Without approval from the higher-ups, soldiers along the Western front stopped firing at each other. Both the German and the English soldiers were warned and asked to stay alert in case the opponent army tried to catch the other off guard and attacked. They sang carols and lit up candles in trees. The Germans planted Christmas

trees on their front-line trenches and sang 'Stille Nacht' (Silent Night).

The British responded from the other side of the no man's land by singing "The First Noel" and 'O Come, All Ye Faithful'. The Germans joined in by singing the Latin version of the song, 'Adeste Fideles'. A former soldier, ~~the~~

~~with~~ recounted this ~~is the~~ event very fondly. "I thought this is the most extraordinary thing - two nations